

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11-19, 22, 24, 27, 32, 33, 37, 40, and 42-50 were rejected and claims 3, 6, 9, 10, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28-31, 34-36, 38, 39, and 41 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 3, 6, 9, 10, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28-31, 34-36, 38, 39, and 41.

By the present Response, claims 3, 20, 34, 41, and 44-50 have been cancelled and claims 1, 9, 19, 23, 25, 33, 36, and 40 have been amended. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 2-19, 21-33, 35-40, 42, and 43 will remain pending in the present patent application. Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 20, 34, and 41 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1, 19, 33, and 40 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 3, 20, 34, and 41, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1, 19, 33, and 40, and the claims depending therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 9, 23, 25, and 36 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9, 23, 25, and 36 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 9, 23, 25, and 36, and the claims depending therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance. All pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

By this response, the total number of independent claims has increased by four. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fee of \$344.00 for the additional claims to Deposit Account No. 01-0857; Order No.: 01AB054 (ALBR:0092/YOD).

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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